

# 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

## 2. Fiscal Year

2024

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional  
Advisory Council

## 3b. GSA

## Committee No.

1529

## 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

01/18/2024 01/18/2026

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

## 7. Expected Term Date

## 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

## 8b. Specific Termination Authority

## 8c. Actual Term Date

## 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

## 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

## 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

## 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

## 12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)

## 13. Effective Date

12/02/1980

## 14. Committee Type

Continuing

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

## 16a. Total Number of Reports

1

## 16b. Report Date

## Report Title

Seward Peninsula Subsistence

03/08/2024 Regional Advisory Council FY23

Annual Report

## Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

## 17a. Open

4

## 17b. Closed

0

## 17c. Partially Closed

0

## Other Activities

0

## 17d. Total

4

## Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
The purpose of this meeting was for the Council to discuss and make recommendations on several wildlife proposals and wildlife closure reviews. The Council also heard from several agencies on related topics and conducted other necessary business.	11/01/2023	11/02/2023
The purpose of this joint, all-council meeting was to bring the ten subsistence Regional Advisory Councils together to discuss issues that are relevant to them all. Discussions and presentations included information from the Federal Subsistence Board and the Secretary of the Interior's office, the councils' regional reports, co-stewardship, and other issues affecting all of the councils, such as salmon and caribou critical decline and youth leaders in subsistence management, among other topics. Council members also received length of service awards and recognition. The all-council meeting was followed by several training sessions and administrative presentations.	03/05/2024	03/06/2024
The purpose of this joint meeting was to bring the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Western Interior Alaska, and Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils together to discuss deferred Wildlife Proposals WP24-28/29. Wildlife Proposals WP24-28/29 were originally submitted due to a dramatic decline in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) population and aimed to reduce the harvest limit from five caribou per day to four caribou, only one of which may be a cow, per year. Given the large range of the WACH and broad impacts of any regulatory changes, this joint session supported collaborative decision-making across Council regions.	03/07/2024	03/07/2024
The purpose of this meeting was for the Council to discuss and make recommendations on deferred wildlife proposals and one fisheries special action. The Council also made decisions brought forward from the all-council meeting earlier in the week.	03/08/2024	03/08/2024

## Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 4

	Current	Next
	FY	FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00

<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

All meetings are open to the public and provide opportunity for members of the public, Tribes, organizations, and agency representatives to participate in discussions and share information relevant to Federal subsistence management. At these public meetings the Council receives public comments and considers technical information on fish and wildlife populations and subsequently makes recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board encompassing consideration of the scientific data, local knowledge, and experience of subsistence hunters and fishers in the region. The Council drafts correspondence to the Federal Subsistence Board in the form of an Annual Report to bring awareness to subsistence and fish and wildlife conservation concerns in the region. The Council continues to track and

participate in subsistence fish and wildlife management issues on the Federal lands within their region, which includes the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and extensive Bureau of Land Management lands in the Seward Peninsula region.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Members broadly represent geographic, cultural, user, and gender diversity present within the region. This is ensured through a rigorous outreach recruitment effort and a thorough evaluation and recommendation process. Applicants are evaluated according to the following criteria: they must be a resident of the region in which they applied; have extensive knowledge of the region's fish and wildlife resources; have extensive knowledge of the region's subsistence uses, customs, and traditions; have extensive knowledge of the region's sport, commercial, and other nonsubsistence uses; and have evident leadership and communication skills. The applicants, their references, and key contacts within the region are interviewed by panels of Federal agency staff. The panels meet to rate and rank the applicants according to standards set by the Board. This information is considered by the Interagency Staff Committee which makes its recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board then meets to review the applicants and make their recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board recommendations balance points of view represented on the Council with the Council's function, which is to advise the Board on matters pertaining to subsistence. The Board also

considers other factors such as geographic representation within the region. The Secretaries must concur regarding appointments. The entire process requires approximately 15 months to complete.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The Seward Peninsula Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council generally meets twice each fiscal year. The Council's recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) are not only relevant, but have significant impact on regional residents, because, while the Board may decide not to adopt a Council recommendation regarding the taking of fish and wildlife, it can do so only if such a recommendation fails to meet one or more of the three criteria in Title VIII, Section 805(c) of ANILCA. As much as possible, meetings are held in rural communities to provide the opportunity for personal involvement by those most directly impacted by Federal subsistence management. In FY 2024, the Council met twice in person, once in Nome and once in Anchorage.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act established the Regional Advisory Councils as the public forum for the expression of views and information originating from the local communities of their region, and to provide recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding management of fish and wildlife resources for subsistence uses on Federal public lands. The members of the Regional Advisory Council and the public participants provide the expertise of subsistence people to the process of forming regulations that govern their lives and to the

management of Federal public lands they use for subsistence purposes. The Council is a vital link between the Federal Subsistence Board and the rural residents whose lives the Board's decisions affect.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

Not applicable -- all meetings are open to the public.

**21. Remarks**

The Council made eleven recommendations regarding the take of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska in FY 2024. Meeting minutes contain detailed information of the meetings held, including, but not limited to, any recommendations and justifications given by the Council..

**Designated Federal Officer**

Gisela Chapa Council Coordinator

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Aukongak, Martin	01/15/2021	12/02/2026	Subsistence	Representative Member
Freytag, Mary	01/26/2022	12/02/2024	Subsistence	Representative Member
Gray, Thomas	11/04/2003	12/02/2025	Commercial/Sport	Representative Member
Green, Jr., Louis	12/03/2010	12/02/2025	Subsistence	Representative Member
Hunt, Raymond	12/23/2022	12/02/2025	Subsistence	Representative Member
Katchatag, Deahl	12/11/2017	12/02/2023	Subsistence	Representative Member
Kirk, Ronald	12/03/2015	12/02/2024	Subsistence	Representative Member
Moses, Robert	01/26/2022	12/02/2024	Subsistence	Representative Member
Reynolds, Patrick	01/17/2024	03/12/2024	Subsistence	Representative Member
Seetot, Jr., Elmer	09/30/1994	12/02/2024	Subsistence	Representative Member

## **Number of Committee Members Listed: 10**

### **Narrative Description**

Since Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, Title VIII has provided for the continuation of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands by rural residents in Alaska. Title VIII required the creation of Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to enable rural residents to have a meaningful role in Federal subsistence management. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture subsequently established the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Program is a multi-agency effort that includes the DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the USDA Forest Service. These agencies manage the Federal public lands where subsistence activities take place, including waters running through or next to Federal public lands and limited marine jurisdiction. The Secretaries delegated management authority for subsistence uses in Alaska to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board), which is comprised of the regional directors of the five Federal public land managers in Alaska and a representative appointed by the Secretaries to serve as Chair as well as two public member representatives. The Board is the decision-making body that oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The ten Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils provide recommendations and information to the Board, review policies and management plans, provide a public forum, develop proposals, evaluate current and anticipated subsistence needs, and perform other duties required by the Board. The Councils make recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Councils meet at least twice a year. Council chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to present the recommendations of their Councils and provide knowledge and advice to the Board.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

The Council provides recommendations and information to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board), reviews policies and management plans, provides a public forum, develops proposals, evaluates current and anticipated subsistence needs, appoints members to the National Park Service subsistence resource commissions, and performs other duties required by the Board. The Council makes recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans, policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of communities' rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>





### **Cost Savings Comments**

Regional Advisory Council members are all volunteers. They provide expert knowledge and advice to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board), which the Board cannot otherwise obtain. Without the Council, the program would need to greatly increase staff and research funding. The researchers would then need to seek information from the very people, or similar people, who now make up the Council. The Board adopts a preponderance of the Council's recommendations, which may lower resource management costs.

### **What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

175

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

In FY 2024, the Council made eleven recommendations to the Board on the following wildlife proposals, closure reviews, and special actions: WP24-28/29: Support with modification to exclude the eastern portion of Unit 26A from the harvest limit reductions and to change the harvest limit to 15 caribou/year, only one of which may be a cow. FSA24-01: Support to close Federal public waters of the Yukon River drainage to the harvest of Chinook, summer/fall Chum and Coho salmon throughout the 2024 season except by federally qualified users. WP24-27 – Support with OSM's modification to change muskox hunts in Units 22 and 23 to draw permit hunts; standardize delegated authority for all hunts. WCR24-10 – Retain Status Quo in Unit 22B, to remain closed to muskox hunting by non-federally qualified users. WCR24-28 – Retain Status Quo to maintain closure in Unit 22D, west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek to muskox hunting except by residents of Nome and Teller. WCR24-29 – Retain Status Quo to maintain closure in Unit 22D, remainder to muskox hunting except by residents of Elim, White Mountain, Nome, Teller, and Brevig Mission. WCR24-30 – Retain Status Quo to maintain the closure in Unit 22E to muskox hunting by non-federally qualified users. WCR24-44 – Retain Status Quo to maintain the closure in Unit 22D, Kuzitrin River drainage, to muskox hunting except by residents of Council, Golovin, White Mountain, Nome, Teller, and Brevig Mission. WCR24-15 – Retain Status Quo to maintain the closure in Unit 22D, remainder to moose hunting by non-federally qualified users. WP24-01 – Support with OSM's modification to allow the sale of brown bear hides with claws attached in areas where the Federal harvest limit is two bears every regulatory year, and also by obtaining a permit to do so at the time of sealing.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

97%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board to consider and adopt the report and recommendations of the Regional Advisory Council concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses. The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under these criteria, the Board generally adopts the majority of Council's recommendations.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

3%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

In some cases, the Federal Subsistence Board deferred to another Council's recommendation on a regulatory proposal from the region affected if there was a difference in a recommendation made by two or more Regional Advisory Councils.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) (acting for the Secretary) to inform the Regional Advisory Council when the Board chooses not to adopt a Council recommendation concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses. The Board has expanded this to include reporting on those Council recommendations it does adopt and those it adopts with modification. These actions and their justifications are written in what is referred to as the 805(c) Letter and Report. Board decisions regarding other matters, such as the rural determinations, for which the Council makes recommendations are reported to the Council in a less formal manner by the Council Coordinator or the Council Chair.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

New subsistence regulations frequently require the managing agencies to reprioritize staff and other resources. Other recommendations accepted by the Federal Subsistence Board may also require reallocation of agency funds. The Council also makes recommendations regarding fisheries research priority information needs within the region and for annual funding for fisheries research projects related to those needs.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

There is an extensive effort to announce the public meetings of the Regional Advisory Council via news releases, radio public service announcements, website postings, Facebook postings, and newspaper ads. The agenda, meeting materials, and meeting transcripts are available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program website and

are mailed or emailed upon request to the communities within the region and interested organizations and agencies. The Council Coordinator has a toll free telephone number to provide easier access for the public to call into the meetings and to disseminate the actions of the Council. There are various publications produced to share the actions of the Council. These include, but are not limited to, meeting booklets for their semiannual meetings, topic-specific informational letters, brochures, and public handouts.